

Message Text

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R 111025Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5906

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION USNATO

USCINCPAC LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 5177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, NO, SV, SW, UR

SUBJECT: SWEDISH VIEWS ON SVALBARD

1. DURING COURSE OF MY CALL ON MFA SECRETARY GENERAL SVERKER ASTROM TO DISCUSS KOREA (SEPTTEL), ASTROM RAISED QUESTION OF SWEDISH CONCERN FOR SITUATION RE STRAITS BETWEEN SVALBARD AND NORTH CAPE. HE SAID THAT THE GOS IS STUDYING THE SITUATION IN THE AREA CAREFULLY BECAUSE OF THE VERY "PRECARIOUS BALANCE" THERE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. IF THAT BALANCE WERE UPSET, ASTROM CONTINUED, IT WOULD EXPOSE THE NORTHERN FLANK OF SWEDEN TO A SERIOUS THREAT. HE SAID THAT THE SUBJECT IS OF PARTICULAR PERTINENCE TO HIM AT THE PRESENT TIME, BECAUSE HE PLANS TO DISCUSS IT IN LONDON AT CHATHAM HOUSE IN NOVEMBER (WHERE HE WILL BE VISITING TO ARRANGE THE OFFICIAL VISIT TO ENGLAND OF FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON IN DECEMBER).

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2. AS THE SWEDES SEE THE SITUATION, ASTROM SAID, THERE IS

A DELICATE BALANCE IN THE AREA BETWEEN THE STRATEGIC
INTERESTS OF THE USSR AND NATO, WITH THE SOVIETS SEEKING
ASSURED EGRESS FROM THEIR ONLY WARM WEATHER PORT AT
MURMANSK, AND THE ABILITY OF THE NATO ALLIES TO KEEP THE SOVIETS
BOTTLED UP. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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